

To whom it may concern,

My name is Frank Benitez, and I am entering the field of education. As a person aiming to teach within the field of the social sciences, I know that learning the material that goes within the state standards is what must be done. However, I have some issues that arise from all the standards, but I will use the sixth grade standards as where I cite examples from.

First, how do people expect for information spanning a fifty thousand (if not more) year range to be learned with little to no problems by twelve year old children? It would be a safe bet to see that many administrators at school districts and government offices would most likely not do well on the standards set for these twelve year old kids. With that in mind, wouldn't it be better to set standards to discuss reasons on why humanity developed in a certain manner rather than push for the memorization of the names of different human types?

Secondly, some of the questions set for the standards basically ask to create so many connections to a single event. One example is that standard on how the Silk Road has to connect religion, politics and economic business within various nations. This is something that is more likely to be found in a college level course, but it's expected for all twelve year old children to know. Unless the information given involves pure memorization and/or a very simple overview of the content, then the standard would not be met; even so, the amount of information to meet this standard would have to be in depth to the point where all the standards expected for the sixth grade would not be able to be met in time.

Finally, I do have to point out that there are some good standards which allow for the most efficient pattern to instruct students, at least in my point of view. These are the ones that allow history to be interpreted in different ways, such as the questions of the role of civilizations or governments in a specific region. I feel these are the examples in which all standards should be based, at least in the sixth grade context. A student may have issues with remembering the name of a hominid species, but the skills learned through the study and writing on different points of view is something that will last for a very long time.

Sincerely,
Frank Benitez